

CLAIMS

1. The use of immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein BiP (GRP78), or a peptide derived therefrom, as a reagent for indicating the presence of rheumatoid arthritis.
2. The use of protein BiP (GRP78) according to claim 1, in which the protein has the amino-acid sequence of Sequence Listing SEQ.ID.No.1 or SEQ.ID.No.2.
3. The protein BiP (GRP78) having the amino-acid sequence of Sequence Listing SEQ.ID.No.1 or SEQ.ID.No.2.
4. Recombinant BiP (GRP78).
5. A prognostic or diagnostic test for RA in which the test reagent for testing body fluid is immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein BiP (GRP78), or a peptide derived therefrom.
6. A test according to claim 5, being an ELISA assay.
7. A test according to claim 5, being a Western Blot.
8. Immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein BiP (GRP78), or a peptide derived therefrom, for use in therapy.

9. Immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein BiP (GRP78), or a peptide derived therefrom, for use in rheumatoid arthritis therapy.
10. A cDNA sequence coding for Immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein BiP (GRP78), or for a peptide derived therefrom, for use in therapy.
11. A cDNA sequence coding for Immunoglobulin heavy chain binding protein BiP (GRP78), or for a peptide derived therefrom, for use in rheumatoid arthritis therapy.
12. A cDNA sequence having or containing the nucleotide sequence of Sequence Listing SEQ.ID.No.3.
13. A recombinant vector containing a DNA sequence according to claim 12.
14. A method of testing for RA, using a protein BiP(GRP78) or a cDNA sequence coding therefor to determine the presence of antibodies to said protein.
15. A method of therapeutic treatment of RA comprising administering the protein BiP(GRP78) or a DNA coding therefor.
16. Method according to claim 15, in which administration is by the intravenous, nasal, oral, or cutaneous route.
17. A recombinant organism capable of expressing protein BiP(GRP78).

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add
BiP